AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A display and control device for ~~medical equipment~~ a life support system including units connectable to an electric bus, the display and control device comprising:

- a plurality of display/control units, each display/control unit configured as a plug-in module and including:
  - o a display device having a plurality of activatable pixels,
  - o a display activation device which activates the pixels of the display device on the basis of data supplied,
  - o a transparent input device disposed on a surface of the display device that is to face an observer,
  - o an input evaluation device which evaluates inputs made via the input device, and
  - o a unit connector with which the display activation device and the input evaluation device are connected and by which the display/control unit can be connected to an electric bus, and
- a base unit on which the plurality of display/control units are arranged, the base unit configured for mechanical fixing of the display/control units and including:
  - o an electric bus for the communication of the display/control units connected thereto,
  - o a plurality of connector devices at which respective display/control units can be connected to the electric bus via the unit connector, and
  - o a configuration device which is connected with the electric bus and which, after connection of a display/control unit to the electric bus, transmits to the display/control unit configuration data determining display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the ~~medical equipment,~~ life support system, wherein, after configuration

of the display/control unit has been completed, failure of the configuration device during operation does not initially cause a deterioration in an overall function of the display and control device, wherein the configuration data further comprises an identification of a medical unit connectable to the electric bus from which data values are to be received, a criteria for evaluating the received data values and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values.

2. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein for each of the connector devices of the base unit, it is determined in the configuration device which configuration data are transmitted to a display/control unit connected to a respective connector device.

3. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein in the configuration device the configuration data transmitted to connected display/control units are determined depending on the sequence in which the display/control units are connected to the base unit.

4. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein several areas to display display contents and to receive inputs are logically defined in the display device of the display/control unit.

5. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 4, wherein several of the logical areas are combinable to form a connected area.

6. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one display/control unit includes several display/control devices that are constructed identically.

7. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein the display/control unit is fixed to the base unit by way of the connection between the unit connector and the connector device.

8. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 7, wherein the display/control unit is fixed on the base unit via additional fixing elements.

9. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein data for displaying digits, numbers and map pixels are stored in the display activation device of the display/control unit.

10. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein the display/control unit and the configuration device are arranged such that data for display contents can be transmitted to the display/control unit by the configuration device and stored in the display/control unit.

11. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 10, wherein the display/control unit informs the configuration device of which data for display contents are stored in the display activation device.

12. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein the display/control unit includes a bus communication device via which the display activation device and the input evaluation device are connected to the bus.

13. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein no further control elements are provided.

14. (Previously presented) The display and control device according to claim 1, wherein apart from an on/off switch, no further control elements are provided.

15. (Previously presented) A display/control unit adapted for use in a display and control device according to claim 1.

16. (Currently amended) A display and control apparatus for ~~medical equipment~~ a life support system, comprising:

a plurality of configurable display/control units, each display/control unit configured as a plug-in module and including a display device, a display activation device which activates the display device on the basis of data supplied from the medical equipment, an input device disposed on a surface of the display device, an input evaluation device which evaluates inputs made via the input device, and a connector configured to removably connect each display/control unit to the medical equipment through a communication bus;

a base unit on which the plurality of display/control units are mounted, the base unit configured for mechanical fixing of the display/control units and including a communication bus for communication between the plurality of display/control units and the ~~medical equipment,~~ life support system, and a plurality of connectors for connection to respective display/control units; and

a configuration device connected to the communication bus and which transmits configuration data to a display/control unit after connection of the display/control unit to the communication bus, wherein the configuration data establishes display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the ~~medical equipment~~ life support system and ~~wherein, after receiving the configuration data from the configuration device, the display/control unit operates independently of the configuration device and communicates directly with the medical equipment~~ wherein, after configuration of the display/control unit has been completed, failure of the configuration device during operation does not initially cause a deterioration in an overall function of the display and control device.

17. (Previously presented) A display and control apparatus as defined in claim 16, wherein the configuration data comprises an identification of a medical unit connectable to the communication bus from which data values are to be received, a criteria for evaluating the received data values and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values.

18. (Currently amended) A medical system comprising:

~~medical equipment~~ a life support system including a plurality of operational units; and

a display and control apparatus comprising:

a plurality of configurable display/control units, each display/control unit configured as a plug-in module and including a display device, a display activation device which activates the display device on the basis of data supplied from the medical equipment, an input device disposed on a surface of the display device, an input evaluation device which evaluates inputs made via the input device, and a connector configured to removably connect the display/control unit to the medical equipment;

a base unit on which the plurality of display/control units are mounted, the base unit configured for mechanical fixing of the display/control units and including a plurality of connectors for connection to respective display/control units; and

a configuration device which transmits configuration data to a display/control unit after installation of the display/control unit in the base unit, wherein the configuration data establishes display contents and input areas of the display/control unit to be utilized during subsequent operation with the ~~medical equipment~~ life support system and ~~wherein, after receiving the configuration data from the configuration device, the display/control unit operates independently of the configuration device and communicates directly with the medical equipment~~ wherein, after configuration of the display/control unit has been completed, failure of the configuration device during operation does not initially cause a deterioration in an overall function of the display and control device.

19. (Previously presented) A medical system as defined in claim 18, wherein the configuration data comprises an identification of an operational unit of the medical equipment from which data values are to be received, criteria for evaluating the received data values and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values.

20. (Canceled)